

Dear Ms. Buchanan:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 8, 2003.

The Commission is aware that there have been several major hydrologic events in the last few years which have resulted in the need to place emergency protection measures at several bridges and major utility crossings in the Memphis area. We acknowledge your recognition of Memphis District's response to your emergency needs on Nonconnah Creek and Wolf River. The District will continue to coordinate with the City of Memphis on finding solutions to the channel stabilization problems affecting the area.

Regarding the weir reconstruction at the mouth of Nonconnah Creek, the Commission understands the city is not interested in reconstructing the weir unless Congressional authorization is obtained to reconstruct and maintain the weir at 100 percent Federal expense. If such authorization is provided, the Memphis District will work with your office on this matter.

The Commission shares your concern regarding severe headcutting that is occurring along the tributaries to Nonconnah Creek. The Memphis District will continue to work with you to determine solutions to these problems, subject to authority and funding.

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The Commission acknowledges the need to achieve long-term stability of Nonconnah Creek. We are aware of your recent request to the Memphis District for undertaking a preliminary review of the authorized project to determine the feasibility of using a watershed approach to create a more sustainable river environment through the flood control project. The review will determine if a reevaluation study is warranted. The District is in the process of contracting with an Architect-Engineer Firm to conduct the preliminary review. The review is scheduled to begin in mid-June and be completed within 7 months.

Per your request, any design and construction activities for the authorized Nonconnah channel improvements (other than the necessary stabilization work at Riverport Road) will be delayed until the results of the preliminary project review are determined.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
President Designee, Mississippi  
River Commission